

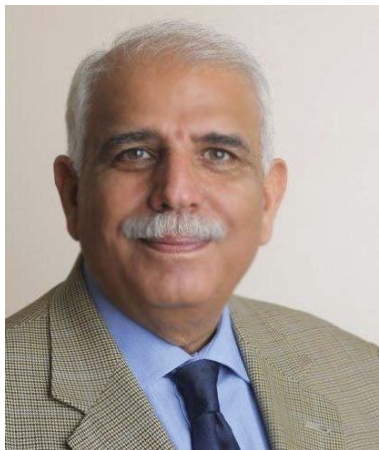


Belgium 10th largest export destination of Pakistan

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Belgium is an important trading partner for Pakistan in Europe, as it follows the common Trade Policy adopted by the European Union. The grant of GSP+ status to Pakistan by the EU allows zero tariffs concession on 66% of Pakistan's products in the member countries of European Union, including Belgium.

Belgium was one of the first countries in the world to recognize Pakistan's independence. It opened its Embassy in Karachi in December 1948. Belgian companies had very quickly understood the importance of Pakistan and have invested heavily in the country over the last 70 years.



Mr. Abid Husain, The Belgian Trade Commissioner.

Table 1: Pak - Belgium Trade Balance

(Value: US\$ million)

Year	Export	Import	Balance of Trade
2012-13	425	430	- 5
2013-14	472	428	+ 44
2014-15	497	328	+ 169
2015-16	503	435	+ 68
2016-17	590	388	+ 202

Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Reports.

Table 2: Export of textile and other products from Pakistan to Belgium (Major Items)

Country	2016-17	2015-16
Cotton Yarn	5,226	6,575
Cotton Fabrics	61,022	66,572
Readymade Garments	186,488	142,839
Knitwear	145,423	138,113
Textile Made ups	11,732	12,462
Bedwear	122,755	123,050
Towels	19,625	27,183
Tents and Canvas	196	901
Art Silk	4,837	6,560
Rice	30,018	29,813
Leather Apparel & Clothing	11,407	10,819
Leather Gloves	5,040	4,917
Footwear	1,653	2,685
Sports Goods	16,422	17,426
Car Parts	159	528
Surgical Goods	5,018	5,028
Fish & Fish Preparation	554	1,493
Fruits	395	483
Cutlery	600	614

Source: Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.



**Table 3: Import of textile Machinery from Belgium to Pakistan
(Major Items)**

Value: Rs. 000

Machinery	Unit	2016-17		2015-16	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Weft Winding Machinery	No	1	2,620	--	--
Weaving Machines	No	1,289	5,348,265	1,278	3,502,714
Bobbies Jacquard Machines	No	62	47,147	251	47,753
auxillary Machines	No	6	3,892	1	723
Reeds for Loom	Kg	818	2,244	1,900	6,583
Healds and Healds Frame	Kg	3,085	15,955	2,627	16,984
Shuttles	Kg	90	401	--	--
Sinkers	Kg	311	929	--	--

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

For instance, Belgium built the first port in Gwadar in the 1980s. Belgium has also assisted Pakistan in all its time of need, and in recent years donated large amounts to help the country overcome the devastations of the 2005 earthquake and 2010-2013 floods. Pakistan-Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) establishment indeed was a big step towards deepening of bilateral relations.

Pakistan diplomatic post in Belgium is important because Brussels is the headquarters of the European Union and NATO, among many other international organisations with which Pakistan

maintain close contact. Pakistan has often lobbied to gain Belgium's support in establishing the Pakistan-EU Free Trade agreement, as Belgium is the centre of European policy making and politics.

Over the past five years, trade between Pakistan and Belgium has increased but the rise in exports has been greater than the imports. Belgium is the 10th largest European importer of Pakistani goods, and the bilateral trade between the two is approaching US\$ 978 million in 2016-17. Increasing trends were witnessed both in imports and exports over the last two years, which led

to a healthy transformation in bilateral trade. The balance of trade had remained in favour of Pakistan.

Pakistan and Belgium maintain healthy bilateral trade relations. The export volume of Pakistan to Belgium reached US\$ 590 million while imports amounted to US\$ 388 million in 2016-17. Table 1 shows Pak-Belgium trade balance.

Cotton fabrics and yarn, readymade garments, knitwear, towels, hosiery, art silk, carpet and rugs, leather gloves, sports goods and fish and fish preparation, medical or surgical instruments are the major items exported from Pakistan to Belgium, as shown in Table 2.

Textile machinery, general industrial machinery, power generating machinery, pharmaceuticals are the main items imported from Belgium. Statistics regarding imports of major textile machinery from Belgium to Pakistan are given in Table 3.

References

- ❖ Belgium Economy Profile-2017.
- ❖ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.
- ❖ Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.
- ❖ State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report, 2016-17. ◆

